Amendments to the Claims

In the Claims, please amend the claims as follows:

1 -8. (canceled)

9 - 24. (canceled)

25. (new) A method for making mixed-metal particles, comprising:

preparing a solution selected from the group consisting of a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising metals selected from Group IIB, a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising Cu and at least one metal selected from Group IIIB, and a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising at least one metal selected from each of Groups IIIB and IVB;

forming droplets of the solution; and

heating the droplets to pyrolyze the contents of the droplets to form mixed-metal particles,

wherein said mixed-metal particles are a single-phase metal oxide.

26. (new) A method according to claim 25, wherein the particles comprise Cu and In and have an average diameter of less than about 1 micron.

27. (new) A method according to claim 25, wherein the particles comprise Cu, In and Ga.

28. (new) A method according to claim 25, wherein said droplets are heated in an oxidizing atmosphere.

29. (new) A method according to claim 28, wherein said atmosphere comprises oxygen.

30. (new) A method for making mixed-metal particles, comprising:

preparing a solution selected from the group consisting of a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising metals selected from Group IIB, a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising Cu and at least one metal selected from Group IIIB, and a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising at least one metal selected from each of Groups IIIB and IVB;

forming droplets of the solution; and

heating the droplets to pyrolyze the contents of the droplets to form mixed-metal particles,

wherein said mixed-metal particles comprise a non-oxide phase.

31. (new) A method according to claim 30, wherein the mixed-metal particles comprise a metal oxide phase and a non-oxide phase.

32. (new) A method according to claim 30, wherein the mixed-metal particles are

multinary metallic particles.

33. (new) A method according to claim 30, wherein the mixed-metal particles comprise at least one phase substantially enveloping at least one other phase

34. (new) A method according to claim 30, wherein the particles comprise Cu and In and have an average diameter of less than about 1 micron.

35. (new) A method according to claim 30, wherein the particles comprise Cu, In and Ga.

36. (new) A method according to claim 30, wherein the droplets are heated in a reducing atmosphere.

37. (new) A method according to claim 36, wherein the atmosphere comprises hydrogen.

38. (new) A method for making mixed-metal particles, comprising:

preparing a solution selected from the group consisting of a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising metals selected from Group IIB, a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising Cu and at least one metal selected from Group IIIB, and a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising at least one metal selected from each of Groups IIIB and IVB;

forming droplets of the solution; and

heating the droplets to pyrolyze the contents of the droplets to form mixed-metal particles,

wherein said mixed-metal particles comprise multiple metal oxide phases.

39. (new) A method according to claim 38, wherein the mixed-metal particles comprise at least one phase substantially enveloping at least one other phase

40. (new) A method according to claim 38, wherein the particles comprise Cu and In and have an average diameter of less than about 1 micron.

41. (new) A method according to claim 38, wherein the particles comprise Cu, In and Ga.

42. (new) A method according to claim 38, wherein said droplets are heated in a non-oxidizing atmosphere.

43. (new) A method according to claim 42, wherein said atmosphere comprises nitrogen.

44. (new) A method according to claim 38, wherein said droplets are heated in a substantially inert atmosphere.

45. (new) A method according to claim 44, wherein said atmosphere comprises nitrogen.

46. (new) A method for making mixed-metal particles, comprising:

preparing a solution selected from the group consisting of a solution comprising two or more dissolved metals and/or two or more metal-containing compounds comprising metals selected from the group Cu, In and Ga;

forming droplets of the solution; and

heating the droplets to pyrolyze the contents of the droplets to form mixed-metal particles,

wherein said mixed-metal particles comprise multiple metal oxide phases.

47. (new) A method according to claim 46, wherein the mixed-metal particles comprise at least one phase substantially enveloping at least one other phase

48. (new) A method according to claim 46, wherein the particles have an average diameter of less than about 1 micron.

49. (new) A method according to claim 46, wherein said droplets are heated in a substantially inert atmosphere.

50. (new) A method according to claim 46, wherein the droplets are heated in a reducing atmosphere.